

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2051

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5044

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: LABOR RELATIONS WITH MRS. PERON AND THE MILITARY

1. KNOWLEDGEABLE, INVOLVED LABOR SOURCES HAVE ADVISED LABATT THAT ORGANIZED LABOR STILL HOPES THAT MRS. PERON WILL BE ABLE TO RETAIN HER POSITION AS PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, THEY FEEL HER HEALTH WILL NOT PERMIT HER TO REMAIN. SOURCES STATE THAT MRS. PERON WILL PROBABLY LEAVE SHORTLY FOR APPROXIMATELY 15 DAYS' REST IN BARILOCHE, BUT THAT SHE WILL NOT REQUEST OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING HER CONVALESCENCE THERE. NOTE: OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE WOULD REQUIRE TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT BY SENATE PRESIDENT LUDER. ACCORDING TO SOURCES, MRS. PERON IS SUFFERING FROM GASTROENTERITIS AND ANEMIA, AND THEY BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY THAT SHE WILL BE ABLE TO RECOVER HER HEALTH SUFFICIENTLY TO REASSUME HER DUTIES. HOWEVER, THEY WOULD WELCOME HER CONTINUANCE IN A "PUPPET ROLE" AS SYMBOL OF PERONISM AND INSTITUTIONALISM. NOTE: ACTING INFORMATION OFFICER'S SOURCE ADVISES THAT NEUQUEN PROVINCE GOVERNOR'S OFFICIAL VACATION RESIDENCE, EL MESIDOR, OFTEN USED BY ONGANIA DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, IS BEING PREPARED FOR HER USE.

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2. ON LABOR RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY, SOURCES

COMMENTED THAT BOTH SECTORS REALIZE PRESENT COOPERATIVE ACTION IS "MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE". LABOR IS NOW RECEIVING IMPRESSION THAT MILITARY IS GROWING INCREASINGLY UNEASY WITH WHAT IT FEELS IS INORDINATE POWER OF LABOR SECTOR. REPORTEDLY, MILITARY FEARS THAT LABOR SEEKS TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY BY ITSELF. SOURCES COMMENTED THAT SUCH AN ATTITUDE WAS COMPLETELY UN-REALISTIC AS LABOR FULLY AWARE THAT IT CANNOT GOVERN, BUT CAN ONLY PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT AS JUNIOR PARTNER TO POLITICAL AND MILITARY SECTORS. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR GROWING CONCERN OVER MILITARY'S ATTITUDE, AS LABOR WAS FULLY AWARE THAT THE MILITARY WOULD MOVE TO TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD LABOR'S INFLUENCE BECOME TOO PRONOUNCED. SOURCES OPINED THAT SHOULD SUCH A MILITARY MOVE TAKE PLACE, THE RESULTING MILITARY GOVERNMENT WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY OPPRESSIVE ONE, "A LA PINOCHET."

3. COMMENT. OTHER SOURCES HAVE ALSO COMMENTED ON STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT MRS. PERON WILL TAKE REST, PROBABLY WITHIN COUNTRY. HOWEVER, LABOR'S VIEWPOINT THAT MRS. PERON IS "WORTHY" OF BEING RETAINED IS NOT NECESSARILY SHARED BY OTHER SECTORS. EMBASSY/POLITICAL SOURCES ADVISE US THAT MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES (I.E. JUSTICIALISTAS AND UCR) AND THE MILITARY ARE DETERMINED THAT SHE BE REPLACED, AND THAT REST PERIOD BE FIRST STEP TO EXTENDED OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE.
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